

Listing of Claims

1. – 19. (Cancelled)
20. (Currently Amended) A[n] hand operated computer mouse [input device], comprising:
a base member; and
an integral top member formed from a single integral piece and having an external contour for receiving a user's hand for manipulation of the hand operated computer mouse, the integral top member cooperating with the base member to form a housing of the [input device] hand operated computer mouse, the base member and integral top member working together to ~~that~~ encase[s] internal components of the [input device] hand operated computer mouse, the base member forming the bottom [[surface]] wall of the housing, the integral top member forming the entire top and side [[surface]] walls of the housing, the integral top member moving relative to the base member to provide a user input action, the integral top member being movably coupled to the base member, the integral top member being capable of moving between a first position, placing the integral top member away from the base member and a second position, placing the integral top member towards the base member.
21. (Currently Amended) The input device mouse as recited in claim 20 wherein the internal components include electronics associated with moving a cursor on a display.
22. (Currently Amended) The input device mouse as recited in claim 20 wherein the base member is configured to make moving contact with a surface.
23. (Cancelled)
24. (Cancelled)
25. (Currently Amended) The input device mouse as recited in claim 20 wherein the user input action is implemented by moving the integral top member to the second position.
26. (Currently Amended) The input device mouse as recited in claim 20 further including a biasing spring pad for biasing the integral top member in the first position.

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~input device~~ mouse as recited in claim 20 wherein the integral top member is pivotally coupled to the base member.
28. (Currently Amended) The ~~input device~~ mouse as recited in claim 27 wherein the integral top member includes a pair of pivots, and wherein the base member includes a pair of snap mechanisms that mate with the pair of pivots.
29. (Cancelled)
30. (Currently Amended) The ~~input device~~ mouse as recited in claim 20 wherein an electronic switch is coupled to the base member, and wherein the integral top member includes an elongated member for engaging the electronic switch.
31. (Currently Amended) The ~~input device~~ mouse as recited in claim 20 wherein the integral top member has no separate mechanical buttons disposed thereon.
32. (Currently Amended) A handheld computer mouse having a mouse housing for containing mouse electronics, the handheld computer mouse comprising:
a bottom member configured to make moving contact with a surface;
a top member mechanically coupled with the base member to form the mouse housing and to encase said mouse electronics, the top member of the mouse housing being configured to be grasped and manipulated by a hand of a user, the top member being formed from a single integral piece and defining the entire top surface of the mouse housing, the top member moving relative to the bottom member between a first position, placing the top member away from the bottom member and a second position, placing the top member towards the bottom member, so as to implement a clicking action, the entire top member serving as a movable button for implementing the clicking action; and
an electronic switch fully contained inside the mouse housing such that the electronic switch is protected and hidden from view, the electronic switch being activated by said clicking action so as to perform an onscreen action.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer mouse as recited in claim 32 further comprising a mechanism for generating cursor control signals, the mechanism being carried by the bottom member.
34. (Previously Presented) The computer mouse as recited in claim 32 wherein the mechanism is a trackball or optical electronics.
35. (Cancelled)
36. (Currently Amended) A handheld computer mouse, comprising:
a base member; and
a top member formed from a single piece having no separate mechanical buttons disposed thereon, the top member cooperating with the base member to form a housing of the handheld computer mouse that substantially encloses internal components of the handheld computer mouse, the top member forming the top and side surfaces of the housing and being configured for placement inside a user's hand, the base member forming the bottom surface of the housing and being configured for contact with a support surface, the top member moving relative to the base member to provide a clicking action, the entire top member serving as a button for actuating an internal electronic switch configured to register the clicking action as an input to the electronics of the handheld computer mouse.
37. (Cancelled)
38. (Cancelled)
39. (Cancelled)
40. (Cancelled)
41. (Cancelled)
42. (Currently Amended) A computer mouse having a mouse housing for containing electronics that at least generate cursor control signals, the mouse housing comprising:
a base member configured to make moving contact with a surface;

an integral top member formed from one piece and mechanically coupled to the base member, the integral top member cooperating with the base member to fully encase the electronics disposed therein, the integral top member forming the entire top and side surfaces of the mouse housing, the base member forming the bottom surface of the mouse housing, the integral top member and the base member being coupled and engaged in a manner that allows the integral top member to serve as [a] the only button for performing a mouse clicking action, the integral top member during the clicking action activating an internal actuator that registers clicking action as an input to the electronics.

43. (Currently Amended) The ~~input device~~ mouse as recited in claim 28 wherein the pivot and snap mechanisms are in an opposed relationship in the back of the input device, the pivot and snap mechanisms providing an axis around which the integral top member rotates during the clicking action.

44. (Currently Amended) The ~~input device~~ mouse as recited in claim 20 wherein ~~the integral top member is configured for placement inside a user's hand~~, at least a back portion of the integral top member has[[ving]] an external contour that substantially conforms to the contour of the palm-side surface of the hand.

45. (Currently Amended) The ~~input device~~ mouse as recited in claim 21 ~~wherein the input device is configured as a handheld mouse~~, and wherein the base member carries a mechanism for generating cursor control signals when the ~~input device in the form of a handheld mouse~~ is moved about a surface via a user's hand.

46. (Previously Presented) The input device as recited in claim 45 wherein the mechanism is a trackball.

47. (Previously Presented) The input device as recited in claim 45 wherein the mechanism is an optical sensing circuit.

48. (New) A computer mouse having a mouse housing for fully containing mouse electronics, said mouse electronics being configured to provide mouse movement information and button click information, said computer mouse comprising:

a base member configured to make moving contact with a surface, the base member carrying a tracking mechanism for acquiring mouse movement information when the mouse is moved about a surface, and an internal electronic actuator for acquiring button click information; and

a movable outer shell cooperating with the base member to fully encase the electronics disposed therein, the movable outer shell being a single integrated piece that forms the entire grippable surface for manipulating the mouse with a hand, the movable outer shell pivoting relative to the base member so as to provide a button clicking action that activates the internal electronic actuator carried by the base housing member.

49. (New) The mouse as recited in claim 48 wherein the movable outer shell forms the entire top and side surfaces of the mouse housing.

50. (New) The mouse as recited in claim 48 wherein the outer shell is pivotally coupled to the base member via a pair of pivots disposed on opposite sides of the mouse, the pivots providing an axis around which the outer shell pivots during the clicking action.

51. (New) The mouse as recited in claim 50 wherein the pivots are located on the right and left sides of the mouse in a back portion of the mouse such that the front portion of the outer shell tilts forward.

52. (New) The mouse as recited in claim 48 wherein the outer shell is made from a translucent material.

53. (New) The mouse as recited in claim 48 wherein the clicking action is performed by a wrist action.

54. (New) The mouse as recited in claim 48 wherein outer shell is externally contoured to conform to the contour of a palm side surface of a user's hand when the hand is in a relaxed neutral condition.